

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111  
Attorney Docket No.: 020179  
U.S. Serial No.: 10/049,616

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A sound reproducing apparatus, comprising:

- a recording means for recording into a recording medium a data file in which a sound signal encoded in a first format and a first decoding program according to said first format are stored;
- a storing means for storing a second decoding program according to a second format;
- a determining means for determining whether or not a format agrees between said sound signal and said second decoding program;
- a validating means for validating one of said first decoding program and said second decoding program on the basis of a determination result of said determining means;
- a decoding means for decoding said sound signal by the decoding program validated by said validating means; and
- an outputting means for outputting the decoding sound signal decoded by said decoding means.

Claims 2 – 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A sound reproducing apparatus, comprising:

- a recording means for recording into a recording medium a data file in which a sound signal encoded in a predetermined format and a decoding program according to said predetermined format are stored;
- a loading means for loading said decoding program from said recording means;
- a decoding means for decoding said sound signal by said decoding program loaded by said loading means; and
- an outputting means for outputting a decoded sound signal decoded by said decoding means.

Claims 6 – 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A sound reproducing apparatus, comprising:

- an ~~attaching means~~ attacher for detachably attaching a recording medium on which a sound signal encoded in a first format and a first ~~encoding~~ decoding program according to said first format are recorded;
- a ~~storing means~~ storage for storing a second decoding program according to a second format;
- a ~~determining means~~ determiner for determining whether or not a format agrees between said sound signal and said second decoding program;

a ~~validating means~~ validator for validating one of said first decoding program and said second decoding program on the basis of determination of result of said ~~determining means~~ determiner;

a ~~decoding means~~ decoder for decoding said sound signal by the decoding program validated by said ~~validating means~~ validator; and

an ~~outputting means~~ outputter for outputting a decoded sound signal decoded by said ~~decoding means~~ decoder; wherein

said ~~decoding means~~ decoder carries out a first number-of-bit operation,

said recording medium records said first decoding program corresponding to said first number-of-bit operation and said ~~first~~ second decoding program corresponding to a second number-of-bit operation,

said ~~validating means~~ validator loads said first decoding program corresponding to said first number-of-bit operation from said recording medium when said determination result represents disagreement.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A sound reproducing apparatus, comprising:

an attaching means for detachably attaching a recording medium on which a sound signal encoded in a predetermined format and a decoding program according to said predetermined format are recorded;

a loading means for loading said decoding program from said recording medium;

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a decoding means for decoding said sound signal by said decoding program loaded by said loading means; and

an outputting means for outputting a decoded sound signal decoded by said decoding means, wherein

said decoding means carries out a first number-of-bit operation,

said decoding program includes a first decoding program corresponding to said first number-of-bit operation and a second decoding program corresponding to a second number-of-bit operation,

said loading means loads said first decoding program from said recording medium.